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## **SUN CITY WEST FIRE DISTRICT**

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# NEWSRELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Fire Safety Tips for Thanksgiving**

(SUN CITY WEST, AZ), (NOVEMBER 15), 2010 – Thanksgiving is a day full of enticing smells, good company, and lots of laughs – but along with the enjoyable chaos is the reality that cooking fires are three times more likely to occur on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year. In addition to cooking and celebrating, the Sun City West Fire District is reminding families to take a minute to consider fire safety so a dangerous kitchen fire won't spoil such a joyful occasion!

Whether you plan to keep your meal traditional with Grandma's favorite recipes, or want to add a dash of gourmet to impress your guests, make sure these fire safety tips are ingredients in all your dishes.

### **Preventing cooking fires**

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop to attend to hot food and appliances.
- Always be alert when you are cooking and not under the influence of medication or alcohol.
- Keep anything that can catch on fire at least 3 feet from the stove, toaster oven, or other heat source.
- Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothes that can catch fire if you stand too close to a burner.
- If you are frying, grilling or broiling food stay in the kitchen. If you are baking or simmering stay home and check food frequently.

## **Preventing burns and scalds**

- To prevent hot food or liquid spills, use the stove's back burner and/or turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.
- All appliance cords should be kept coiled and away from counter edges.
- Use oven mitts or potholders when moving hot food.
- Open containers that have been in the microwave slowly and away from the face.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.

## **Keeping Kids Safe**

- Create a 3 foot Kid Free Zone around the stove.
- Never hold a child while cooking, drinking, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Young children should be more than 3 feet from any place where there is hot food, drinks, pans, or trays.
- Hot items should be kept from the edge of counters and tables. The steam or splash from items such as vegetables, gravy, or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Do not use a tablecloth or placemat if very young children are in the home.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet. Never leave children alone in room with a lit a candle.
- When children are old enough, teach them to cook safely and always with help from an adult.

Before company comes over for Thanksgiving, make sure your smoke alarms are working. In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are a very important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal -- so you and your family can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home.

For more information on free smoke alarm checks in Sun City West, call the Sun City West Fire District at (623) 584-3500 or visit our website at [www.scwfire.org](http://www.scwfire.org).

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